UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/631
1 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 1 JUNE 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to inform you that the Governments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia continue to invest maximum efforts to bring about a political solution to Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, based on the principles of equality of all citizens and national communities, autonomy for Kosovo and Metohija and full respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Along these lines, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has accepted the principles of the G-8, including a United Nations presence, the mandate and other modalities which would be established by a Security Council resolution in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

A precondition for the achievement of such a solution is an urgent cessation of the aggression of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the refocusing of the attention on political issues with the aim of achieving a stable and lasting political solution.

Notwithstanding the peace efforts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and other countries and actors, NATO continues its criminal aggression, intensifying it with every passing day. The consequences have been disastrous, as thousands of civilians, including women, children and the sick and the elderly, are being killed systematically and the infrastructure of the country, including hospitals, television and radio stations, old people's homes and the power grid and water supply systems, as well as refugee convoys and camps, are being destroyed, which, alongside the resultant ecological catastrophe, represents a crime against peace and humanity.

Scores of civilians have been killed in raids in the past three days alone. A total of 9 people were killed and 6 are unaccounted for, including children, while over 60 were wounded in a raid on a bridge and the market place at Varvarin. On 31 May, shortly after midnight, NATO planes struck the hospital and sanatorium at Surdulica, killing 13 patients, mostly old and retired people and Serb refugees from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is feared that

the number could increase, as the clearing away of debris is still under way. A total of 10 people were killed and over 20 were wounded last night at Novi Pazar.

The latest tragic count bears witness to the humanitarian catastrophe that has been visited upon 11 million Yugoslavs and the ruthlessness of the NATO aggression, the victims of which are primarily civilians. The aggression is the principal obstacle to the quest for a political solution, and it undermines the political process.

Having made you aware of the position of my Government on the situation in and around Kosovo and Metohija and the tragic consequences of the NATO aggression against my country, I expect that, in the pursuit of its responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, the Security Council will take all necessary measures to put an immediate end to the NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with the aim of finding a political solution under the auspices of the United Nations and in accordance with its Charter.

I kindly request you to have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/991
S/1999/632
2 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 1 June 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 18 May 1999, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 20, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 May 1999.

On 20 May 1999, three (3) military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force (one F-4, one C-130 and one of unidentified type) entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations.

The F-4 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before returning to the FIR of Ankara.

The C-130 and the unidentified type of aircraft, violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, from where they departed the same day, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 24 May 1999, one (1) B-200 Turkish aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria before landing, at 1211 hours, at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, from where it departed at 2022 hours of the same day, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 25 May 1999, five (5) military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force (four F-16 and one of unidentified type) entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations.

The four F-16 aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia, before returning to the FIR of Ankara.

The unidentified type of aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic.

On 26 May 1999, two (2) RF-4 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations.

The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the areas of Kormakitis, Kyrenia, Karpasia and the Bay of Famagusta before returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 27 May 1999, one (1) C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a southeasterly direction.

Furthermore, on 28 May 1999, four (4) F-4 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations.

As stated in my previous letters, these Turkish unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention to the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey which demonstrate once more Turkey's blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I would like, once again, to underline that the present violations occurred after the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1217 (1998) and 1218 (1998) in which the Council called upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence or territorial integrity. My Government expects that the Turkish side will show compliance with the provisions of these resolutions.

Such provocative actions are not conducive to reducing tension and run counter to the initiative of the Secretary-General, announced on 30 September 1998, within the framework of his Mission of Good Offices, with the goal of reducing tensions and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

Furthermore, the continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force and the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/54/118
S/1999/633
2 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-fourth session
Item 116 of the preliminary list*
RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 27 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the letter addressed to you today by Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (see enclosure). The original letter will be forwarded to your office as soon as received from Islamabad.

I should like to request that the present letter and its enclosure be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 116 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmad KAMAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/54/50.

99-16371 (E) 030699

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Enclosure

There has been a sharp escalation in violations of the Line of Control in the disputed state of Jammu and Kashmir by the Indian side over the past two weeks. Long-range and heavy artillery, helicopter gunships and aircraft are being used in these operations, which have not only targeted Kashmiri freedom fighters in the Kargil area but have also been aimed at positions across the Line of Control in several sectors controlled by Pakistan, causing loss of civilian lives and property. This morning, two Indian fighter aircraft, a MIG-27 and MIG-21, were shot down nearly 15 kilometres inside the Pakistani controlled area in Kashmir. These developments have created an extremely dangerous situation along the Line of Control and seriously undermine peace and security in the region.

We welcome your recent statement urging restraint and calling for a political solution of the Kashmir dispute.

The freedom movement of the Kashmiris has been going on for all of 50 years since the Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. This indigenous struggle is being waged for the right of self-determination promised to them by India and the United Nations. If India has not honoured its commitment and flouted the resolutions of the Security Council, the onus of responsibility must lie squarely on India.

India continues to allege outside interference as a ploy to divert and confuse international opinion against the just cause of the Kashmiris.

You had sent a Personal Envoy to the region last year. You had also spoken with me on this subject by telephone. I had readily welcomed your initiative but India had refused to permit the Personal Envoy to visit New Delhi. This is characteristic of the different approaches of the two countries.

India not only refuses to accept any role by the United Nations in the resolution of the Kashmir dispute but also rejects any third party involvement which could use its good offices and influence with both Islamabad and New Delhi to find a resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The Indian intransigence is against the global trend for mediated settlement of conflicts and disputes. We must not lose sight of the fact that Kashmir has now become a nuclear flashpoint, and its resolution is absolutely necessary for peace and stability in the region.

I would urge you to give due consideration to this extremely serious matter lest the situation get out of control. India has used its air force in the disputed territory for the first time since the 1971 war. This is a dangerous and unprecedented move. We have exercised the utmost restraint and have not yet ordered our air force to retaliate, but there is a limit to our patience.

My commitment to the peace process is firm. It was at my initiative that Prime Minister Vajpayee visited Pakistan. But the present action of the Indian Government has made the situation highly volatile. It is certainly not in the

interest of world peace; in my view, two nuclear powers should never be in a state of confrontation.

I would urge you to initiate meaningful dialogue between the two countries to defuse the current situation and lead to a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

The situation requires that the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) be immediately reinforced and activated. You may also consider sending a Special Envoy to the region to help with the efforts to reduce tensions.

Meanwhile, I want to assure you that Pakistan is committed to the restoration of peace and security and has demonstrated its resolve to ensure this objective. We are committed to the Lahore Declaration and the dialogue process with India aimed at resolving all outstanding issues, especially the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir.

(Signed) Muhammad Nawaz SHARIF

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/634
2 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE CREDENTIALS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received credentials signed on 24 May 1999 by the Minister, Ad Interim, for Foreign Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil stating that Gelson Fonseca Jr. has been appointed representative of Brazil on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, these credentials are in order.

99-16335 (E) 020699

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/635
2 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 2 JUNE 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a joint communiqué issued by the Government of Uganda and a delegation from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see annex). This is a further demonstration of Uganda's commitment to a solution of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This joint communiqué further clarifies Uganda's position on the current situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Prof. SEMAKULA KIWANUKA
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Uganda
to the United Nations

99-16321 (E) 020699

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Annex

Joint communiqué

1. At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Uganda, a delegation from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, led by the Honourable Mwenze Kongolo, Minister of Justice, paid a working visit to Uganda from 28 May to 1 June 1999. The President of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, granted audience to the Government delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Democratic Republic of the Congo Government delegation held discussions with their Ugandan counterparts on the practical modalities for the implementation of the Sirte Peace Agreement signed in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on 18 April 1999. The list of the two delegations appears in the annex.

2. As a result of the discussions, the following positions were adopted:

(a) It was noted that the Sirte Peace Agreement is a declaration of Commitment to the ongoing Lusaka regional peace process. In this respect, the two delegations reaffirmed their commitment to the strengthening of the Sirte spirit by implementing the broad principles stipulated in the Agreement;

To this effect, the two delegations committed themselves to setting up a Committee of Experts that will work out practical modalities for the implementation of the aforementioned Agreement. The two delegations agreed to promote in the shortest time possible, the Sirte spirit to all the parties involved in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(b) The two Governments would convince their respective allies to recognize the principles in the Sirte Agreement in order for all the parties involved in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to contribute to a comprehensive and durable Peace Agreement;

(c) The two delegations underscored the fact that the issue of the killers and mass murderers remains thorny in the implementation of the Sirte Agreement;

(d) The two delegations concurred that sustainable peace, security and stability can only be achieved through real democracy in all the countries of the region. This implies putting in place concrete steps towards the realization of good governance. The meeting therefore, welcomed the efforts being made by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to meet armed and unarmed opposition and its commitment to opening national dialogue. In a like manner, the two delegations encouraged Uganda to do the same;

Uganda will continue to encourage the armed and unarmed opposition to take part in the initiatives taken by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in its efforts to democratize the country;

(e) The two delegations further agreed that the anticipated peacekeeping should in the meantime, study the situation on the ground for the eventual deployment;

(f) The two delegations will meet in Kinshasa after the discussions by the Experts. The date of the meeting will be set through the normal diplomatic channels.

3. The meeting took place in a frank and brotherly atmosphere.

4. At the end of the visit, the Congolese delegation thanked the Ugandan Government for its warm welcome and hospitality, and for the commitment to the search for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Signed at Kampala on 1 June 1999.

For the Democratic Republic of the Congo

(Signed) Hon. Mwenze Kongolo
Minister of Justice

For the Republic of Uganda

(Signed) Hon. Amama Mbabazi
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Regional Cooperation)

Appendix I

Delegation of the Government of Uganda

1.	Hon. Amama Mbabazi	Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Regional Cooperation)
2.	Mr. Ralph Ochan	Permanent Secretary/Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3.	Col. Henry Tumukunde	Chief of Military Intelligence
4.	Mr. Basho Ndinyenka	Deputy Director General of External Security Organisation
5.	H.E. Kamanda Bataringaya	Ambassador of Uganda to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
6.	Mr. Katende Mull	Head of East African Cooperation and Ring States
7.	Mr. Kagamba J. Singoma	Interpreter

Appendix II

Delegation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

1.	Hon. Mwenze Kongolo	Minister of Justice
2.	Hon. Bemba Saolona	Minister of Economy and Industry
3.	Hon. Constantin Nono Lutula	Special Adviser to the President on Security
4.	Mrs. Isabelle Iboula	Chargé d'Affaires of the DRC Embassy in Uganda
5.	Mr. Nsenga Nkulu	Chief of Staff/Ministry of Justice
6.	Mr. Mundadi Ntita	Interpreter
7.	Mr. Katalay Manyeka	Personal Assistant to the Minister of Economy and Industry
8.	Mr. Ngwale Richard	Counsellor of the Embassy of DRC in Uganda

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UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/636
2 June 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 2 JUNE 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a press communiqué of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, dated 27 May 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

99-16327 (E) 020699 020699

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Annex

PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

In accordance with the Vienna Document of the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-building Measures (1994), the Russian Federation conducted two inspections, one from 7 to 9 May on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia and the other from 16 to 19 May on the territory of Albania. The purpose of these inspections was to establish the extent of the military activities being carried out there.

The Russian party could not but note during these inspections that unprecedented violations of both the spirit and the letter of the Vienna Document have been committed both by the parties hosting these inspection missions and by the representatives of the NATO forces. For example, in violation of the provisions of paragraph 81 of the Vienna Document, the Russian inspection group was denied the right to carry out aerial inspections, in both Albania and Macedonia. The representative of the NATO ground forces command in Macedonia, Brigadier Giovanetti (Italy), denied the group access to all sectors where NATO units were deployed. Likewise, the group was unable to implement the inspection measures provided for in the Vienna Document, for example, to assess the quantity of weapons and establish contact with troops. In Albania, the representative of the United States prevented the group from visiting the United States forces and establishing contact with the "Hawk" operational group command, and from inspecting Rinas international airport.

In a particularly flagrant violation of the provisions of the 1994 Vienna Document, the Macedonian party did not inform the other States members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe that the overall number of NATO troops deployed on its territory exceeded the level set by the Vienna Document in connection with military activities - levels that are subject to notification and must be observable.

The Russian party believes that these actions are deliberately designed to reduce the transparency of the armed forces of the Alliance and to evade the monitoring provided for by the Vienna Document.

Such actions represent a severe blow to the entire system of political and military commitments provided for by the Vienna Document, which is one of the most important instruments guaranteeing stability in Europe. In particular, it has become clear that the States members of NATO, which have always said that the Vienna Document was applicable under any circumstances, are not actually willing to see it applied to a crisis situation.

The Russian party strongly condemns the unlawful actions of the representatives of NATO and of Macedonia and Albania. The Russian Federation will draw practical conclusions from these inspections, which it will take into account in the negotiations.

27 May 1999

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/637
2 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 2 JUNE 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to inform you of the continued aggressive actions of the regular armed forces of the Republic of Albania in collusion with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization air force and the terrorists of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Enclosed herewith is a memorandum on recent instances of armed provocations along the Yugoslav/Albanian border (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its enclosure circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

99-16341 (E) 020699

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Annex

MEMORANDUM

ON RECENT PROVOCATIONS ALONG THE YUGOSLAV/ALBANIAN BORDER

1. On 31 May 1999, at about 10 a.m., ethnic Albanian terrorist forces carried out an attack against the border units of the Army of Yugoslavia on Mt. Pastrik and in the regions south of the border crossing of "Vrbnica". The attack was supported by artillery fire from the territory of the Republic of Albania and extensive bombing by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air force. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., over 200 missiles were fired by NATO planes against the positions of the Army of Yugoslavia protecting the State border.

2. On 31 May and 1 and 2 June 1999, the regular forces of the Republic of Albania, three brigades strong, continued, in collusion with the terrorist forces of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and supported by the armour and artillery of the armed forces of the Republic of Albania and two B-2 bombers of the strategic air forces of the United States of America, attempted to carry out a land invasion of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the regions of Mt. Pastrik and the Junik Mountains.

3. The coordinated attacks of the regular forces of the Republic of Albania, terrorists of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army and the NATO air force remove the mask from the policy of cooperation, assistance and support that NATO renders to the terrorists of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army, aimed at undermining diplomatic efforts to bring about a political solution. The most recent attack is a reflection of the policy of diktat, aimed at occupying part of the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a sovereign nation and a Member State of the United Nations. The coordinated action of NATO, the Republic of Albania and the terrorists of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army is an attempt to escalate the aggression which continues unabated even as negotiations take place at Bonn, with the aim of forcing the other participants to support the diktat and impose the KLA terrorists as a solution factor.

4. Considering that the acts of provocation represent an escalation of the aggression and a flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998) and, by extension, of the mandate of the Security Council and the Charter of the United Nations, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia requests that the Security Council condemn those acts and take other urgent and immediate measures within its mandate as the key United Nations body entrusted with the task of maintaining international peace and security.

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/638
2 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 2 JUNE 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to inform you that, in collusion with, and with the support of, the Albanian military and the NATO air force, the ethnic Albanian terrorist forces continue to carry out armed provocations from the territory of the Republic of Albania against the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in an organized and pre-planned manner:

1. On 28 May 1999, in the afternoon, sporadic small-arm and mortar fire was opened from the region of Mal, peak elevation 1,571, of the border area of the Republic of Albania against the border units of the Army of Yugoslavia in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the regions of Oplaz and Kosare, peak elevation 1,385, and the village of Ponosevac.

2. In the night of 28/29 May 1999, the ethnic Albanian terrorist forces opened small-arm and mortar fire from several directions in the border area of the Republic of Albania in an attempt to infiltrate men and matériel over the State border in the zone of responsibility of the border units of Djakovica and Prizren. Fire was directed also on Mt. Pastrik and the "Gorozup" border post.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

99-16347 (E) 020699

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/639
3 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 JUNE 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA, SLOVENIA AND THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On behalf of our respective Governments, we should like to bring to your attention two instances in which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) inaccurately asserted that it is: (a) a current Member State of the United Nations; and (b) a founding Member State of the United Nations.

More precisely, we refer to two recent letters by the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr. Vladislav Jovanović, addressed to the President of the Security Council dated 10 May 1999 (S/1999/546) and 14 May 1999 (S/1999/562). Without commenting on the substance of the other elements of the letters, we should like to draw your attention to paragraph 4 of the former letter, where Ambassador Jovanović alleges that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is "a sovereign State Member of the United Nations", and paragraph 5 of the latter letter, where Ambassador Jovanović identifies the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) as "a founding member of the United Nations". Both allegations are inaccurate.

We have repeatedly drawn the attention of the Security Council and the United Nations membership in general to the pertinence of General Assembly resolution 47/1 of 22 September 1992, as well as Security Council resolution 777 (1992). Both of those authoritative resolutions unequivocally stipulated that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) could not automatically continue the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations, and that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should apply for membership in the United Nations. To date, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has not complied with the stipulations contained in those resolutions, and has not applied for membership in order to gain admission to the United Nations, and therefore cannot be considered as a Member State of the United Nations.

Furthermore, following its dissolution, the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was replaced by five successor States, none of which continues the legal personality of their common predecessor, which indeed had been a founding member of the United Nations. The Arbitration Commission of the European Union/United Nations Conference on the former Yugoslavia confirmed that

fact in its Opinions 9, 10 and 11, and the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly reconfirmed it in the above-mentioned resolutions.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), with its claim that it possesses the same legal personality of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and that it thereby automatically inherits its membership in international organizations, such as the United Nations, or that it is party to international treaties by virtue of its continuity to the predecessor State, refuses to acknowledge the equal rights and obligations of all States that emerged following the dissolution of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in respect to succession. It thereby attempts to place the other four successor States in an unequal and discriminated position.

Moreover, it is deplorable that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is taking advantage of the interim ad hoc practical arrangement - which allows it to circulate documents in the United Nations as a party to the matters of which the United Nations is seized - and is thereby attempting to create the erroneous impression that it is a Member State of the United Nations. The usage of the same abbreviated name "Yugoslavia", which was used by our common predecessor State, namely, the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), serves the same purpose. We wish that this letter be understood as our permanent objection to the groundless assertion of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), which has also been repudiated by the international community, that it represents the continuity of our common predecessor, and thereby continues to enjoy its status in international organizations and treaties.

We kindly request your assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Bosnia and Herzegovina

(Signed) Naste ČALOVSKI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Macedonia

(Signed) Ivan ŠIMONOVIĆ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Croatia

(Signed) Danilo TÜRK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Slovenia

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/995
S/1999/640
3 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda items 39, 40 and 84
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER
ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 3 June 1999 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Last week, the Israeli Government took a decision to enlarge an illegal settlement called "Ma'ale Adumim" by approximately 12,000 dunums (3,250 acres). This expansion involves the effective annexation of land, the construction of additional housing units and the illegal transfer of more Israelis to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem. The settlement is located approximately 6 kilometres East of Jerusalem, and if implemented the plan would link the settlement with the illegally enlarged municipal boundaries of Jerusalem. Furthermore, the expansion would separate the northern half of the West Bank from its southern half, making it all the more difficult to apply international law and legitimacy with respect to Jerusalem.

This decision by Israel, the occupying power, represents another grave breach of the Hague Regulations of 1907, the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocol I of 1977. The decision also represents a gross violation of relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, and represents another attempt to derail prospects to resuscitate the peace process. In this regard, I would also like to refer to my previous letters dated 11 May 1999 and 20 May 1999 on illegal Israeli actions related to the Orient House and to Jabal Abu Ghneim and Ras Al-Amud. It is difficult to believe that all of these actions are being taken without the tacit approval of the newly elected Prime Minister of Israel since there were no comments on his part regarding these actions.

The position of the international community in this regard is very clear, as most recently demonstrated at the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly and the convening of the upcoming 15 July 1999 conference of the high contracting parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem. It is inconceivable that the Security Council remain idle and not take the necessary actions to ensure the cessation and reversal of all of the above-mentioned illegal Israeli actions. We call upon the Security Council to do just that.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as an official document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 39, 40 and 84, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Nasser AL-KIDWA
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/641
4 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 3 JUNE 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey continued between 23 and 31 May 1999 and that the aircraft in question engaged in acts of aggression, reconnaissance activities and acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with the United States, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the facilities for these acts of aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

These actions are continuing to bring death and injury to hundreds of civilians and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The logistic support that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait provide to the United States and British forces makes them key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they share international responsibility for the consequences of these actions. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek lawful compensation for the damage being inflicted on its people by these same actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rokan Hama AL-ANBUGE
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Violations by United States and British aircraft and damage caused, 23-31 May 1999

1. In the northern region 128 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 5,500 to 10,000 metres over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Irbil, Zakho, Baibo, Ayn Zalah, Tall Kayf, Sinjar, Rawanduz, Ba'shiqah and Ayn Barmajah.

2. In the southern region 434 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 8,000 to 12,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Basrah, Amarah, Artawi, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Lasaf, Qurnah, Afak, Qal'at Salih, Qal'at Sukkar, Rifa'i, Ushbayjah, Shinafiyah, Qadisiyah, Ali al-Sharqi, Hayy, Tall al-Lahm, Hawr al-Hammar, Maymunah, Rumaythah, Taqtaqanah, Shu'aybah, Najaf, Shatrah, Ansab and Umm Qasr.

3. One violation was committed by a TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft, with a sortie flown at an altitude of 20,000 metres and at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 0955 hours on 23 May 1999 United States and British aircraft coming from Turkish territory and supported from there by an AWACS early-warning aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 23 sorties and overflew the Irbil, Dohuk, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Najaf, Umm Qasr, Basrah, Shatrah, Amadiyah, Mosul, Zakho, Ayn Zalah and Baibo areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1310 hours, drove them off.

5. At 1010 hours on 23 May 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 82 sorties, 50 from Saudi airspace and 32 from Kuwaiti airspace, were supported by one AWACS and one E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Saudi and Kuwaiti territory and overflew the Nasiriyah, Afak, Samawah, Amarah, Salman, Artawi, Hayy, Maymunah, Lasaf, Rumaythah, Qurnah, Qal'at Sukkar and Rifa'i areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1855 hours, drove them off.

6. At 0950 hours on 23 May 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory and supported from there by an AWACS aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 21 sorties and overflew the Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Amadiyah, Mosul and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

7. At 0945 hours on 24 May 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 92 sorties, 52 from Saudi airspace and 40 from Kuwaiti airspace, were supported by one AWACS

and one E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Saudi and Kuwaiti territory and overflew the Nasiriyah, Afak, Samawah, Amarah, Diwaniyah, Jalibah, Artawi, Hayy, Lasaf and Ansab areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1745 hours, drove them off.

8. At 1134 hours on 25 May 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Turkish territory and supported from there by an AWACS early-warning aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 23 sorties and overflew the Irbil, Dohuk, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Amadiyah, Mosul, Zakho, Rawanduz and Sinjar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1445 hours, drove them off.

9. At 1100 hours on 25 May 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 40 sorties, 26 from Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti airspace, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi territory and overflew the Basrah, Hawr al-Hammar, Nasiriyah, Ushbayjah, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Salih, Lasaf, Qal'at Sukkar and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1205 hours, drove them off.

10. At 1020 hours on 27 May 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Turkish territory and supported from there by an AWACS early-warning aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 sorties and overflew the Dohuk, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Amadiyah, Mosul, Zakho and Baibo areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1320 hours, drove them off.

11. At 0915 hours on 27 May 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 25 sorties, 15 from Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti airspace, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi territory and overflew the Basrah, Qurnah, Hawr al-Hammar, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Salih, Lasaf, Salman, Taqtaqanah, Artawi and Hayy areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1125 hours, drove them off.

12. At 1100 hours on 28 May 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory and supported from there by an AWACS aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 22 sorties and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Mosul, Zakho, Aqrah and Tall Afar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1220 hours, drove them off.

13. At 1042 hours on 28 May 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 55 sorties, 36 from Saudi airspace and 19 from Kuwaiti airspace, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi territory and overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Busayyah, Ali al-Sharqi, Amarah and Diwaniyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1230 hours, drove them off.

14. At 1005 hours on 29 May 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18 and Tornado aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 78 sorties, 56 from Saudi airspace and 22 from Kuwaiti airspace, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi territory and overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Busayyah, Amarah, Qal'at Sukkar, Jalibah, Shinafiyah, Artawi, Hayy, Qurnah, Lasaf and Tall al-Lahm areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1203 hours, drove them off.

15. At 1102 hours on 31 May 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory and supported from there by an AWACS aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 21 sorties and overflew the Mosul, Zakho, Baibo, Tall Afar and Sinjar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1420 hours, drove them off.

16. At 1042 hours on 31 May 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18 and Tornado aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 62 sorties, 40 from Saudi airspace and 22 from Kuwaiti airspace, were supported by one AWACS and one E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Saudi and Kuwaiti territory and overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Basrah, Amarah, Salman, Jalibah, Qurnah, Busayyah and Shu'aybah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

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Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/642
4 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 JUNE 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 3 June 1999, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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Annex

Letter dated 3 June 1999 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on the operations of the Stabilization Force. I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier SOLANA

Enclosure

Monthly report to the Security Council on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Approximately 32,500 troops were deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia over the reporting period (21 April-20 May), with contributions from all North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and from 17 non-NATO countries. The Stabilization Force (SFOR) troops continued to conduct surveillance and reconnaissance by means of ground and air patrols, with combat aircraft flying approximately 134 hours.

2. The number of hostile acts against SFOR associated with the NATO air operation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia decreased significantly over the reporting period. Ground patrols in sensitive areas were intensified. Several demonstrations and concerts which were organized in the Republika Srpska in protest at the NATO operation were conducted peacefully, and were monitored by SFOR on a low-profile basis.

3. SFOR continues to monitor entity compliance with Security Council resolution 1160 (1998), prohibiting the transport of weapons into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and stepped up its efforts over the period to discover any undisclosed weapons caches. No violations of the resolution have been reported to date.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

4. The Parties remain substantially compliant with the military aspects of the peace agreement. Tension in the Republika Srpska remains high, both as a result of continuing political instability there and of the NATO action in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which has caused an influx of refugees into the area. Nevertheless, for the first time since the Bosnian Serbs withdrew from the joint institutions in March, all members of the Tripartite Presidency met in Sarajevo on 20 April. Tensions remain high between ethnic groups in contested areas, with isolated acts of intimidation and violence as refugees and displaced persons return.

5. Over the reporting period, SFOR conducted a total of 573 military weapons storage site inspections: 207 Bosniac; 47 Bosnian Croat; 277 Bosnian Serb; and 42 Federation. No significant discrepancies were noted. On 26 April, following an inspection of the Cavarine Bosnian Serb Army site near Sokolac (in Multi-National Division (South-East)), two items of equipment (a radar and a radar control vehicle) were confiscated by SFOR following reports of unauthorized radar activity at the site on 25 April. The radar was subsequently returned by SFOR.

6. The general training and movement ban imposed on the Entity Armed Forces on 24 March remains in effect. However, training and movement activities for armed forces recruits, using light arms only, are permitted with SFOR's prior approval. Over the reporting period, 427 such activities were monitored: 83 Bosniac; 60 Bosnian Croat; 237 Bosnian Serb; and 47 Federation. The training

and movement ban on the Republika Srpska Police Anti-Terrorist Brigade remains in effect until further notice.

7. The summer demining campaign began on 19 April 1999 with the deployment of 46 Entity Armed Forces demining teams. Between 19 April and 16 May, these teams conducted 743 mine-clearing operations, removing 2 anti-tank mines, 161 anti-personnel mines and 40 items of unexploded ordnance from 65,258 square metres of land.

8. Operation Harvest, the weapons amnesty programme conducted by the Entity Armed Forces which began on March 15 and was scheduled to end on May 15, was extended until September. During the first two months of the Operation, the following weapons and ordnance were handed in: 1,192 small arms; 377,177 rounds of ammunition (20mm-76mm); 1,183 mortar rounds; 9,837 hand grenades; 1,010 anti-personnel mines; 651 anti-tank mines; and 7,189 miscellaneous items.

Cooperation with international organizations

9. Within capabilities, and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the United Nations International Police Task Force, the Office of the High Representative, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Outlook

10. SFOR will continue to monitor the situation closely in the light of ongoing operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Isolated incidents can be expected as a result of the return of refugees and displaced persons.

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Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/643
4 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 4 JUNE 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instruction from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 3 June 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar KOULIEV
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

STATEMENT ISSUED ON 3 JUNE 1999 BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AZERBAIJANI REPUBLIC

As is known, following the joint visit to China in the summer of 1998 by Mr. I. Sergeev, Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, and Mr. V. Sarkissian, Minister of Defence of Armenia, a contract was concluded for the delivery to Armenia of eight "Taifeng" missile systems made in China.

In its note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China dated 17 May 1999, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic stated its position on this issue, requesting clarifications from the Chinese party.

With respect to the reaction of a number of senior Armenian and Russian officials, particularly Mr. Sarkissian and Mr. Sergeev, the statements made by them on the issue on 20 May in Yerevan during a press conference on the outcome of the session of the Council of Ministers of Defence of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States were merely a vain attempt to conceal an obvious fact confirmed by the Chinese party.

In accordance with the instructions he had been given, on 1 June 1999, Mr. TamerLan Karaev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Azerbaijani Republic to China met with Mr. Wang Yinfan, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China.

At the meeting in question the Azerbaijani Republic stated its official position on the delivery by China of eight "Taifeng" missile systems to Armenia, and it was indicated that according to the information available to the Azerbaijani party the systems in question had already been deployed in the Azerbaijani region of Upper Karabakh, which is occupied by Armenian troops.

It was also stated that Azerbaijan welcomed the position taken by China, which as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council had consistently supported Azerbaijan during the consideration and adoption of Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993) on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan; attention was drawn to the fact that those resolutions contained a provision on the inadmissibility of the delivery of weapons in the area where the conflict was occurring. It was stressed, in particular, that the delivery by China to Armenia of "Taifeng" missile systems was incomprehensible to the Azerbaijani party. The delivery of the missile systems was a matter of particularly great concern to Azerbaijan in that the Azerbaijani people viewed China as a friendly State and as a country that was endeavouring to reconstitute its own territorial integrity.

It was indicated that Azerbaijan wished to obtain from the Chinese party clarifications concerning: the circumstances of the sale by China of weapons to Armenia; the relationship between the Chinese Government and the contract in

question; the possibility of the return to China of the "Taifeng" missiles; and the Chinese military instructors who taught the Armenian armed forces how to operate the systems. It was also indicated that Azerbaijan wished to have assurances that such incidents would not occur again in the future.

When stating the position of the Government of the People's Republic of China on the points raised by the Azerbaijani party, Mr. Wang Yinfan, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, indicated that China considered the relations between itself and Azerbaijan to be friendly and that the leadership of the People's Republic of China was well aware of the position of Azerbaijan, which supported China on the issue of "reunification of the motherland". It was stressed, in particular, that China attached great importance to its relations with Azerbaijan and spared no effort in developing them.

With respect to the delivery of "Taifeng" missile systems to Armenia, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China said that he viewed it as a regrettable incident; he indicated that the Chinese leadership entirely understood the concern to which that issue gave rise in Azerbaijan and had conducted a searching inquiry on the subject.

Mr. Wang Yinfan explained that only a small number of Chinese companies sold weapons on the international market and that their activities were strictly controlled by the State, although Chinese law did not require that each contract should be approved by the Government; that was why, according to the Deputy Minister, the Government of the People's Republic of China had been unaware that the sale had been concluded.

The Deputy Minister announced that the Government of the People's Republic of China wished to state that it took full responsibility for ensuring that such incidents would not occur again and that the Chinese Government would not permit the interests of certain companies to become an obstacle to the development of relations between China and Azerbaijan. It was indicated that all Chinese military experts had already left Armenia.

With regard to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Mr. Wang Yinfan said that China fully supported peaceful settlement of the problem and respect for the territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic.

Lastly, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China once again expressed regret with respect to the unfortunate misunderstanding concerning the sale of weapons to Armenia, stressing that China would never take any action that might be harmful to Azerbaijan. He indicated that he had stated the official position of the Government of the People's Republic of China and that the Chinese party trusted that it could count on understanding on the part of the Government of the Azerbaijani Republic.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic welcomes the fact that it has received prompt clarification of the issues that were a matter of concern to the Azerbaijani party and trusts that the Government of the

People's Republic of China will find it possible to take the necessary measures to ensure the return to China of the weapons unlawfully delivered to Armenia, whose deployment has a negative impact on the process of settling the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as on the development of relations between Azerbaijan and China.

Baku, 3 June 1999